

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 and 11-13 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claim 1 is being amended to improve its form. No new matter is involved.

In paragraph 3 on page 3 of the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. More specifically, the language added to claim 1 by the prior amendment is said to constitute new matter.

In response, Applicants are deleting the language “the main signal being passed in its entirety to the exclusion of the sub-signal and the pilot signal” in the first paragraph after the preamble in the claim. At the same time, Applicants are amending the last paragraph of claim 1 by adding the language “and outputting a signal subjected to interpolation processing in its noise portion without adding high frequency components removed from the input audio signal”. As so amended, claim 1 sets forth the feature in accordance with the invention which is shown in Fig. 1 and described at lines 11-20 of page 5. Consequently, such added language is fully supported by the specification and at the same time enables claim 1 as well as claims 2-9 and 11-13 to clearly distinguish patentably over U.S. Patent 6,690,805 of Tsuji et al.

In paragraph 5 which begins at the bottom of page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3-9, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,690,805 of Tsuji et al. In paragraph 7 which begins at the bottom of page 7 of the Office Action, claims 2 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuji et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed, particularly in view of claim 1 as amended herein.

Claim 1 defines a noise cancel circuit which includes "a selection circuit replacing the noise portion of said input audio signal with an output signal from said interpolation circuit according to an output signal from said noise detection circuit". As amended herein, and as noted above, the selection circuit of claim 1 is further characterized by "and outputting a signal subjected to interpolation processing in its noise portion without adding high frequency components removed from the input audio signal". Tsuji et al. does not disclose or suggest such feature in accordance with the invention. Rather, Tsuji et al. only discloses a synthesizer circuit 29 which adds intermediate frequency and high frequency bands to a low frequency band.

Therefore, claim 1 as amended is submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over Tsuji et al. Claims 2-9 and 11-13 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and contain all of the limitations thereof, so that such claims are also submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the reference.

In conclusion, claims 1-9 and 11-13 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art for the reasons discussed above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

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